



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

MHRA Central Freedom of
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[MHRA Website](https://www.mhra.gov.uk)

Our Ref: **FOI2026/00301**

20 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 17 March.
You wrote:

Please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. Total income received by CPRD from commercial data licences (including real-world evidence services and data access fees) for the financial years 2021–22, 2022–23, 2023–24, and any more recent financial year for which data is available.

2. The total volume or proportion of CPRD primary care data (i.e., data extracted from GP practices) that has been used for commercial purposes in the last 12 months.

If possible, please specify this as either the number of commercial projects, the volume of data records, or any metric routinely used by CPRD.

3. The total amount of money returned to HM Treasury from CPRD/MHRA surpluses for the most recent financial year available.

If recorded separately, please indicate the specific amount attributable to CPRD.

MHRA Response

We confirm that we hold the information you have requested and provide it below

- 1. Total income received by CPRD from commercial data licences (including real-world evidence services and data access fees) for the financial years*

2021–22, 2022–23, 2023–24, and any more recent financial year for which data is available.

Response:

I am pleased to provide you with the information requested pertaining to commercial organisations that were issued invoices by CPRD related to commercial data licences in each respective financial year for which accounts have been finalised.

Financial Year	Amount (£)
2021 - 2022	£9,928,012
2022 - 2023	£9,997,322
2023 - 2024	£8,992,960
2024 - 2025	£14,042,310

2. *The total volume or proportion of CPRD primary care data (i.e., data extracted from GP practices) that has been used for commercial purposes in the last 12 months.*

If possible, please specify this as either the number of commercial projects, the volume of data records, or any metric routinely used by CPRD.

Response:

I am pleased to provide you with the information requested. I can confirm that the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) only permits the use of its licensed data for the purposes of approved public health research, irrespective if it is carried out by a commercial or non-commercial entity (e.g. a university or public body). The purpose of any study or use of CPRD supplied data must be for research aimed at deriving direct or indirect public health benefit or improvement in patient care. This is the case irrespective of whether the research organisation in question is a commercial entity or non-commercial entity. In addition, CPRD permit the use of its licenced data for regulatory purposes relating to the safety and surveillance of medicines and medical devices.

All applications for data access for research include the submission of a research protocol outlining the intended purpose and the specific data required to answer the research question. This protocol is then reviewed as part of CPRD's Research Data Governance (RDG) process which includes independent scientific and clinical expert reviewers, information governance specialists and lay reviewers to assess the public benefit of the proposed study, as well as scientific feasibility and any potential information governance risks.

These restrictions preclude the use of CPRD licensed data for purely commercial purposes such as marketing of products or services, and under our standard licence conditions, researchers who have been approved to

access CPRD licensed data cannot also use the data for market analysis, advertising campaigns, sales or other similar commercial purposes.

As a result, the number of commercial projects, the volume of data records accessed for commercial projects, or any other conventional metric routinely monitored by CPRD, will consistently be nil, however research applications approved for the use of CPRD data with a commercial organisation sponsor numbered 74 in the year FY 2024-2025.

A summary of all approved research protocols, including a lay and technical summary of the proposed research, is published three months after CPRD RDG approval of the study. This summary is available on CPRD's website: <https://www.cprd.com/approved-studies>.

It is possible that a research organisation that has been approved to access CPRD data for an approved study or other pre-authorized use may subsequently wish to use or re-use the *study results* generated from the approved access to CPRD data for commercial purposes. CPRD does not prohibit this, but such use relates to the outputs of the study (e.g. aggregated tables, models, visualisations, etc), rather than the underlying data used to generate them, and is in any case subject to compliance with the terms of the data licence agreement.

3. The total amount of money returned to HM Treasury from CPRD/MHRA surpluses for the most recent financial year available.

If recorded separately, please indicate the specific amount attributable to CPRD.

Response:

I am pleased to provide you with the information requested. The Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) operates strictly on a cost recovery basis. Consequently, CPRD does not generate any financial surplus which could be returned to His Majesty's Treasury. MHRA did not return money to His Majesty's Treasury in financial year 24/25

Organisation	Amount (£)
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)	£0
Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD)	£0

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing foi.request@mhra.gov.uk or by writing to: MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team, 10 South, Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/foi/) or telephone 0303 123 1113.

Re-use of our information

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